

The Bingham Farms Post

DECEMBER 2019

'Tis the season for snow removal

Road plowing

Bingham Farms will continue its contract this winter with Johnson Landscaping to provide snow removal services and salt applications.

Snow plows hit the road as soon as two inches have fallen. In heavy storms, the contractor will plow several times to keep the roads passable.

The village will request additional work when conditions warrant. The decision to salt the roads is based on the assessment of the police department. Similar to last year, the village will salt the public roads, when necessary. But remember that we live in Michigan. Conditions can change in a matter of hours.

If you have a concern regarding snow removal from public roads, please call the village office rather than the village's contractor.

Private plowing

The village has an ordinance on its books that prohibits snow from being plowed from one property and deposited on another -- public or private. Snow must remain on the property on which it falls.

Violators may be ticketed. Please inform your snow removal contractor.

Village Council meetings on TV

Beginning with the October 28 meeting, Village Council meetings are now recorded and aired on Birmingham Area Municipal Access (BAMA) Television. Meetings are shown multiple times during a four-week cycle.

BAMA is channel 15 on Comcast, channel 10 on WOW, and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse. The village website, www.binghamfarms.org, also carries the meetings.

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Bingham Farms Office

Residents and commercial property owners are encouraged to contact the Bingham Farms staff with any questions or concerns. Call 248-644-0044, email info@binghamfarms.org, and visit www.binghamfarms.org.

Office hours are 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday.

The office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 2 for Christmas and New Year.

Volunteer Opportunity

The village is *still* seeking a volunteer to serve as its representative on the Birmingham Area Cable Board (BACB). Meetings are held monthly just down the road in the Beverly Hills Village Council Chambers. BACB resolves cable complaints, protects public rights of way and develops public access programming.

For more information, contact Village Manager Ken Marten.

Important numbers

Emergency: 911

Police dispatch: 248-626-5444

Police office: 248-626-9672

Fire office: 248-626-9862

DTE: 800-477-4747

Consumers Energy: 800-477-5050

Protect water quality: Use brine

Salt keeps people safe by reducing the number of vehicle accidents and slip and fall accidents.

But salt doesn't just disappear when the snow melts; it's washed into our lakes, rivers, and streams and effects water quality. As a homeowner, consider reducing salt use by applying brine before a snow storm and shoveling frequently to keep snow from accumulating.

Brine, a mixture of salt and water, is a great alternative. The transition to brine has minimal costs. Brine can be pre-mixed in large quantities and stored in basements or garages. By spraying brine, you have more control over your application, so you don't hit the same area twice and it won't bounce off flat surfaces like salt does. Brine starts working much faster due to the increased contact area with snow. It's best to apply brine before the snow falls (many communities have yet to transition to brining roads because of the significant startup cost for additional equipment and storage).

Combine 1.5 gallons of hot water with three or four cups of rock or table salt in a bucket. Stir until salt dissolves. Pour brine into a sprayer and apply to driveway or walkway prior to snowfall. One gallon covers 1,000 square feet.

What is a watershed?

A watershed, also called a drainage basin, is the land area that delivers rain and snow/ice melt to a stream or lake. Watersheds are divided by a ridge of high land that separates two (or more) areas drained by different river systems. Everyone who lives in Michigan lives in a watershed. Bingham Farms is in the Rouge River watershed and belongs to the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC).

When rain and snow/ice melt travel across land (watershed) and through storm drains, it's called stormwater or runoff. It collects contaminants, sediments and dissolved substances until it discharges into the nearest water body. Streams form rivers and flow across sloping land, eventually emptying into lakes, which provide recreation, wildlife habitats, and drinking water. By keeping cars from leaking, litter off the streets, and properly disposing animal and chemical wastes, we're being good stewards by protecting the health of our watershed, ourselves, and everything downstream. Visit www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/watershed.html.

2020 meeting schedule

The Bingham Farms Village Council meets monthly at 7:30 p.m., typically on the fourth Monday of the month. Below is the 2020 schedule, with adjustments in observance of Memorial Day, Yom Kippur and Christmas.

Mon. Jan. 27
Mon. Feb. 24
Mon. March 23
Mon. April 27
Tue. May 26
Mon. June 22
Mon. July 27
Mon. Aug. 24
Tues. Sep. 29
Mon. Oct. 26
Mon. Nov. 23
Mon. Dec. 21

Council Chambers is located in the village office, 24255 13 Mile, Suite 190, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.